

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of manufacturing a bleach composition comprising a ferric 1,3-propylene diamine tetraacetic acid complex, comprising:

- a) reacting ferrous bromide with unchelated 1,3-PDTA, thereby forming a ferrous 1,3-PDTA complex; and
- b) conducting an oxidation process wherein an amount of the ferrous 1,3-PDTA complex is converted to the ferric 1,3-PDTA complex,

wherein the steps a) and b) are conducted before introducing the bleach composition to a color photographic material, and

wherein the bleach composition is introduced to the color photographic material at least about 24 hours after the steps a) and b) are conducted.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the oxidation process comprises aerating the ferrous 1,3-PDTA complex with an oxidizing gas, contacting the ferrous 1,3-PDTA complex with hydrogen peroxide or the combination thereof.

Claim 3 (Original): The method of claim 2, wherein the oxidation process comprises aerating the ferrous 1,3-PDTA complex with air.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the bleach composition is in liquid form, and wherein an iron-containing precipitate does not form in the bleach composition for at least about 24 hours at about room temperature.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the bleach composition is in liquid form, and wherein an iron-containing precipitate does not form in the bleach composition for at least about 2 weeks at about 4°C.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the bleach composition is in liquid form, and wherein an iron-containing precipitate does not form in the bleach composition for at least about 2 weeks at about 50°C.

Claim 7 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein an amount of ferric 1,3-PDTA complex is present prior to the oxidation process.

Claim 8 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the ferrous 1,3-PDTA complex forms a salt.

Claim 9 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the ferric 1,3-PDTA complex forms a salt.

Claim 10 (Original): The method of claim 9, wherein the ferric 1,3-PDTA complex forms a salt of ammonium, sodium, potassium or a mixture thereof.

Claim 11 (Original): The method of claim 10, wherein the ferric 1,3-PDTA complex forms an ammonium salt.

Claim 12 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein ammonium hydroxide is added to the ferrous 1,3-PDTA complex formed in step (a).

Claims 13-21 (Canceled)

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the oxidation process is effective to convert at least about 97% of the ferrous 1,3-PDTA complex to the ferric 1,3-PDTA complex.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 22, wherein the oxidation process is effective to convert at least about 99% of the ferrous 1,3-PDTA complex to the ferric 1,3-PDTA complex.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein at least about 80% of the ferric 1,3-PDTA complex in the bleach composition is manufactured by the oxidation process.